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Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that new shops are being opened in a number of districts including Salem? I wish to know whether the Government have any particular object in opening new shops?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" It is a matter which is left to the Collector, the Advisory Committee and the Licensing Board in that particular area."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say whether the opening of new shops does not conflict with the policy of the Government in connexion with the question of prohibition they have declared?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Not necessarily; with a view to prevent illicit practices, it is necessary to open additional shops."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the promised millennium of total prohibition has not been reached although the period during which total prohibition was sought to be reached, is mostly over?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I do not think that such a general question as that arises out of this simple question."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the policy to which the Government are committed, may I ask why the Government did not circularize the Excise Officers as regards the desirability of restricting the number of shops?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" They know the policy of the Government very well."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the increase in the number of shops cropping up, may I ask whether the Government are prepared to refresh the memories of these officers?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Whenever new shops are being opened, it is done with a view to stop illicit practices and I do not think the Government should stand in the way of having new shops opened, for that purpose."

Opening of liquor shops in the City of Madras on forbidden days.

* 737 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued orders to close liquor shops on Sundays, public holidays and election days in accordance with the resolution passed by this Council on the 8th August 1929; and

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(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether the Government are aware that the following shops were kept open in the City of Madras on Sunday, the 19th January 1936:—

At Triplicane, Shop No. 6 at 11-35 a.m.
At Triplicane, Shop No. 15 at 11-30 a.m.
At Chintadripet, Shop No. 9 at 12-15 p.m.
At Periamet, Shop No. 11 at 12-25 p.m.
At Vepery High Road, Shop No. 4 at 1-40 p.m.
At Seven Wells Street, Shop No. 2 at 2-35 p.m.
At Audiappa Naik Street, Georgetown, Shop No. 3 at 3 p.m.
At Pudupet, Shop No. 12 at 3-30 p.m.
At Royapetta, Shop No. 16 at 5 p.m.

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1474 answered on 24th February 1930. The restrictions imposed in 1930 have been removed subsequently in certain cases as they have proved ineffective, have stimulated illicit practices and have affected the Government revenues.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" When the Government accepted the resolution of this House with regard to the restriction of non-opening of the shops on holidays and festival days, may I ask whether the Government did not realize at that time that the revenues of the Government would be affected? After having accepted that policy, why should the Government say now that they have given up that policy because the Government revenues are affected? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" The Government did pass orders in pursuance of the resolution accepting to a great extent what this Council wanted."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I ask whether the Government did not realize at the time of accepting that resolution, that there would be a fall in the revenues? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" That was not the only reason for the relaxation of the Government Order; in certain specific areas illicit practices grew up and there was a public demand for these shops being kept open and the report of the officers was to the effect that by reason of the illicit practices revenue which ought to come to the Government was being lost."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" What is the data on which the Government say that the closure of toddy shops has affected Government revenues? The fall in revenue may be due to the general economic depression? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" That was not the only reason for the relaxation of that rule; there were many other reasons which made the relaxation of the rule necessary."

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Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I ask whether the Government would reconsider that decision and give full effect to the resolution passed on 8th August 1929?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"If it is found that in any specific case it has become now possible to put the original order in force, we will consider it."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Are we to take it that it is the policy of the Government to open more shops in places where there is illicit traffic?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"That is the only way to stop illicit traffic."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I ask if it is the policy of the Government that, if crime increases, they should not try to put a stop to it but to relax the provisions of the Indian Penal Code punishing crime?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not quite follow the hon. Member."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"When there is illicit traffic, will not the Government stop it? Will they permit people to take to more drinking?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Where there is illicit traffic, offenders are prosecuted also."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know how the Government propose to reach the supposed goal of total prohibition within twenty years?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"This question can well be taken up at the time of the budget discussion."

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Territorial Changes

Representations for the location of a Deputy Tahsildar's Office at Sompeta, Ganjam.

738 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it was proposed to establish a Tahsildar's office and a Sarishtadar-Magistrate at Ichchapur in the portion of the Ichchapur taluk remaining in the Madras Province;

(*b*) whether the conditions in Sompeta are more favourable for locating a Deputy Tahsildar's office;

(*c*) whether this matter was investigated by the District Collector and, if so, what his report was;